

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. A method of adjusting security for a network user node in
2 communication with a network based upon the location of the node,
3 comprising:
4 determining the location of a network user node;
5 selecting a single level of security from a group of more than
6 two security levels based on the determined location; and
7 modifying the security protection for the network user node
8 based upon the selected level of security.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the network user node is a
2 portable, handheld device having a display.
- 1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the network user node's
2 location is determined using a location sensing system
- 3 4. The method of claim 3, wherein the location sensing system
4 is a global positioning satellite (GPS) system.
- 1 5. The method of claim 3, wherein the location sensing system
2 uses nearby access points to determine location.
- 1 6. The method of claim 3, wherein the location sensing system
2 uses signal bouncing and triangulation to determine network user node
3 location.
- 1 7. The method of claim 3 wherein the network user node is in
2 direct communication with the location sensing system.

1 8. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of sending a data
2 signal includes transmitting the data signal using a wireless local area
3 network (WLAN) protocol.

1 9. The method of claim 8, wherein the WLAN protocol includes
2 the IEEE 802.11 protocol.

3 10. The method of claim 8, wherein the WLAN protocol includes
4 the Bluetooth wireless network protocol.

1 11. The method of claim 1, wherein the selecting step is carried
2 out by reference to a table of desired security modifications based upon
3 the location of the network user node.

1 12. The method of claim 11, wherein the security levels are
2 provided by the user of the network user node for a variety of locations.

1 13. The method of claim 11, wherein the selected security level
2 is based on the type of location determined for the network user node.

1 14. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of modifying the
2 security protection for the network user node includes restricting access
3 to information unless a password is properly entered.

1 15. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of modifying the
2 security protection for the network user node includes a complete denial
3 of access to information using the network user node.

1 16. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of modifying the
2 security protection for the network user node includes a denial to a subset
3 of the information accessible using the node.

1 17. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of modifying the
2 security protection for the network user node includes modifying data
3 encryption parameters to change the strength of encryption on data
4 transmitted by the network user node.

1 18. A computer system for modifying security settings for a
2 network user node based on the location of the node comprising:
3 an input device having a communicative coupling with a
4 system for determining the location of a network user node;
5 a storage device for storing a table of security modifications
6 to be performed based on a plurality of locations for the network user
7 node, the security modifications including more than two levels;
8 a processor coupled to a storage device for processing
9 information, storing on a storage device, and generating a security
10 modification instruction;
11 and a communication device capable of transmitting a data
12 signal to the network user node containing instructions to modify the
13 security protection for the node.

1 19. The system of claim 18, wherein the network user node is a
2 portable, handheld device having a display.

1 20. The system of claim 18, wherein the system for determining
2 the location of a network user node accesses and interprets global
3 positioning satellite (GPS) signals.

1 21. The system of claim 18, wherein the system for determining
2 the location of a network user node uses nearby access points to
3 determine the location.

1 22. The system of claim 18, wherein the system for determining
2 the location of a network user node uses signal bouncing and triangulation
3 to determine location.

1 23. The system of claim 18, wherein the communication device
2 transmits the data signal using a wireless local area network (WLAN)
3 protocol.

1 24. The system of claim 23, wherein the WLAN protocol
2 includes the IEEE 802.11 protocol.

1 25. The system of claim 23, wherein the WLAN protocol
2 includes the Bluetooth wireless network protocol.

1 26. The system of claim 18, wherein the table stored on the
2 storage device includes user defined protection settings for a plurality of
3 locations.

1 27. The system of claim 18, wherein the table stored on the
2 storage device includes security levels customized based upon the type of
3 location received from the system providing the location of the network
4 user node.

1 28. The system of claim 18, wherein the system sends a signal
2 modifying information access restrictions on the network user node.

1 29. The system of claim 18, wherein the system sends a signal
2 modifying the data encryption parameters to change the strength of
3 encryption on data transmitted by the network user node.

1 30. A method of adjusting security for a network user node
2 having a processor, a memory coupled to the processor, a wireless
3 transceiver, and a location determining device in communication with a
4 network based upon the location of the node, comprising:
5 receiving location information using a network user node;
6 and
7 using a network user node to modify security protection for
8 data to a single level from a group of more than two levels, based upon
9 the location information.

1 31. The method of claim 30, wherein the network user node is a
2 portable, handheld device having a display.

1 32. The method of claim 30, wherein the network user node is
2 used to access a table of security levels and location associations.

1 33. The method of claim 32, wherein the table of security levels
2 are stored in the memory of the network user node.

1 34. The method of claim 30, wherein the network user node
2 encrypts data based on the selected security level.

1 35. The method of claim 30, wherein the network user node
2 sends and receives data over a wireless local area network (WLAN).

1 36. The method of claim 35, wherein the WLAN protocol
2 includes the IEEE 802.11 protocol.

1 37. The method of claim 35, where the WLAN protocol includes
2 the Bluetooth wireless network protocol.

1 38. A system implemented on a network user node for modifying
2 security settings based on the location of the node comprising:
3 a system for determining the location of the network user
4 node coupled to the network user node;
5 a processor for processing information, storing information
6 on a storage device, and accessing a table of security modification
7 instructions, the table including more than two unique security
8 modifications; and
9 a storage device coupled to the network user node for
10 storing a table of security modifications to be performed based on a
11 plurality of locations for the network user node.

1 39. The system of claim 38, wherein the network user node is a
2 portable, handheld device having a display.

1 40. The system of claim 38, wherein the system for determining
2 the location of the network user node accesses and interprets global
3 positioning satellite (GPS) signals.

1 41. The system of claim 38, wherein the system for determining
2 the location of the network user node uses nearby access points to
3 determine location.

1 42. The system of claim 38, wherein the system for determining
2 the location of the network user node uses signal bouncing and
3 triangulation to determine location.

1 43. The system of claim 38, wherein the network user node can
2 transmit and receive data signals using a wireless local area network
3 (WLAN) protocol.

1 44. The system of claim 43, wherein the WLAN protocol
2 includes the IEEE 802.11 protocol.

1 45. The system of claim 43, wherein the WLAN protocol
2 includes the Bluetooth wireless network protocol.

1 46. The system of claim 38, wherein the table stored on the
2 storage device includes user defined protection settings at least one
3 location.

1 47. The system of claim 38, wherein the table stored on the
2 storage device includes protection settings customized based upon the
3 type of location of the network user node.

1 48. The system of claim 38, wherein the network user node
2 system modifies information access restrictions based upon a security
3 modification associated with the location of the network user node.

1 49. The system of claim 38, wherein the network user node
2 modifies the data encryption parameters to change the strength of
3 encryption on data based on a security modification associated with the
4 location of the network user node.